



November 15, 2018

Ex Parte

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, ETC Annual Reports and
Certifications, WC Docket No. 14-58; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for
Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 07-135; Developing a Unified Inter-carrier
Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 14, 2018, Lynn Follansbee, USTelecom, Robert Hunt, GVTC, Trey Judy, Hargray Communications, Darby McCarty, Smithville Communications and Trent Boaldin, EPICTOUCH had a telephone conversation with Jamie Susskind, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Carr to discuss the above-referenced proceedings..

During the meeting, USTelecom members discussed how best to address ongoing concerns with respect to the sufficiency and predictability of federal high-cost universal service fund support, including proposals consistent with a letter recently submitted by the associations. *See Ex Parte* Letter from Michael R. Romano, Sr. Vice President, NTCA, *et al.*, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WC Docket No. 10-90, *et al.* (filed Oct. 1, 2018). The companies discussed how the current budget control mechanism effects their ability to plan for cap ex investment both in the near term and in the future.

Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

USTELECOM

By: _____

B. Lynn Follansbee
Vice President – Law & Policy

cc: Jamie Susskind